

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 233669

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TAGS: AORG, ABUD, OECD

SUBJECT: 1975 OECD PROGRAM OF BUDGET AND WORK

REF: OECD PARIS 23508

DELIVER TO MOORE OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 24

1. THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY VIEWS ARE PROVIDED FOR USE
IN FIRST COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON BUDGET SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER 24.

2. THE ORGANIZATION'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1975 COMES AT
A TIME OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STRESS FOR THE UNITED
STATES AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OECD. GOVERNMENTS
ARE CUTTING NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND GENERALLY EXERCIZING
A GREATER DEGREE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FACE OF
RECESSIONARY PRESSURES. IT IS CLEARLY A TIME FOR BELT

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TIGHTENING AND IN OUR VIEW THIS ATTITUDE SHOULD BE

REFLECTED IN THE BUDGETARY DECISIONS WE MAKE AS MEMBERS OF THE OECD. WE SHOULD CONSIDER AN ACTUAL DECLINE IN REAL RESOURCES.

3. SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT INTENSIVE SCRUTINY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE WORK PROGRAM WITH THE AIM OF SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCING THE PROPOSED 21.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN COSTS FOR 1975. THE REDUCTIONS SHOULD REFLECT DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS AS

PRESENTED IN THE BUDGET DISCUSSIONS AND BE ACCOMPLISHED BY REDEFINING PRIORITIES.

AS WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, WHEN NEW FUNCTIONS ARE ADDED LESS IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES MUST GIVE WAY. WE WILL BE PROVIDING YOU SUBSEQUENTLY WITH OUR THOUGHTS ON AREAS FOR REDUCTION.

4. FURTHER SECRETARIAT EFFORTS TO REDUCE BUDGET WILL ALSO BE NEEDED AND WOULD BE FACILITATED BY OVERALL PERCENTAGE LIMITATION ON GROWTH. WE UNDERSTAND UK MAY SUGGEST 16 GROWTH CEILING, AND YOU MAY SUPPORT THEM IF THEY DO, AND PUT FORWARD THE GENERAL CONCEPT IF THEY DO NOT. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO GET THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD, AND YOU CAN SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE APPROACH TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

5. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO SUGGEST A NEW SCRUTINY OF PROCESS FOR SALARY INCREASES. WE WONDER WHETHER FULL ADJUSTMENT FOR COST OF LIVING INCREASES DOES NOT INCREASE PRIVILEGED POSITION OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS BENEFITTING FROM TAX EXEMPT STATUS. INGERSOLL

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